

## Church News

EVANGELIST No. 19

With No. 19, current volume of EVANGELIST, on Sunday excursions by the editor, I fully agree. The spirit of Sabbath desecration is entirely too prevalent, not only in Sunday excursions, but in other things. In some sections it is becoming customary to have an annual Harvest Home picnic on Sunday, and along with it, to have a grocery and ice cream stand, and sell cigars too as a revenue getter, to help meet church expenses. It occurs to me it would be bad enough to sell cigars on a week day, under the auspices of the church. Is this loyalty to Christ?

Is the light that we reflect becoming darkness? If so how great is that darkness. God's people are to be a holy people, zealous of good works. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification. 1 Thess. 4:3. We especially who profess to obey the whole gospel, should take high grounds.

I am truly glad for such wholesome teaching as that generally given in the EVANGELIST by our editor, and brethren I. D. Bowman and Cassel and some others. Brethren let us strive to attain to the best God has for us, by studying carefully God's will and living up to the best light we can get.

In Brother Wetherbe's article in the same issue on the "Personal Element," he speaks of a minister praying for God to give him a fullness of His power and an abundance of wisdom, that he may be guided aright, and yet spends his money lavishly for the gratification of appetite, when he should use it to pay his debts.

Now Brother Wetherbe, what is the trouble with this minister? Is it that he does not exert himself in watching in exercising "his own power and wisdom?" I think not. The trouble is that he is not a cleansed man, he has not laid down everything, appetite and all on the altar, and asked God to take him, and mould him after His own mind. If he had, with full faith the "want to" in indulging appetite etc., would have been taken away, and he would not have to be all the time exercising his own wisdom to do the thing that is right. Paul says, "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, Gal. 2:20. Christ said, consider the lilies of the field how they grow. Oh what a wonderful lesson is wrapped up in that little expression. No effort exerted to grow, just grows easily and naturally, without toiling or spinning. So should and so will he who is the child of God, who has not only been pardoned for past sins, but has entered by faith into that grace whereby he is enabled to stand, and will as naturally grow in grace, but mark, one cannot grow into grace however great effort he may make. Think on these things dear reader. It takes some of us a long time to get hold of these sublime truths, but they are glorious and give fullness of joy. I see in the same No. of the EVANGELIST, in

brother Talley's "The work of Chicago," paragraph—"The future of the work," that he has the correct idea in regard to persons failing to prove faithful.

I have been thinking of writing an article on the cause of back sliding and the cure, as I understand it.

B. L. GORDON.

### THE DAYTON MISSION

The series of meetings we have had in contemplation is now going on and progressing nicely. Saints are revived and sinners warned. One has come out and made the good confession and many more are almost persuaded. The young man who has made the start to serve his Master is one of great promise. He has chosen the good part before becoming contaminated and enthralled by the evils that so easily beset young men of his age. He has now shown to the world a determination to give the best of his young manhood to the Lord and we do hope that he may persevere and be a bright and shining light, a fruitful branch and produce much fruit for the Master.

Oh, that more of us would be willing to give the best of our abilities and income to the Lord and in fact the best of all we possess. Surely the good Lord requires the best. Were not the sacrifices in olden times to be the best and without blemish? Oh, for a heart of willingness to give the best. All has been given to us. God gave his best and only begotten Son for our salvation. How thankful we should be and what feelings of gratitude should constantly actuate every impulse of our natures when we consider our relations to our heavenly Father and feel that he acknowledges us his children and that there is being a place prepared for us to dwell with him in heaven thro all eternity. Let us rejoice forever more.

CHARLOTTE T. BOND.

### Old Dominion

In No. 20 my old friend from Philadelphia gives expression to "Past Mistakes." I do not wish to come in the spirit, "I told you so," but I sincerely hope all our elders and pastors will wake up to the fact that we are and have been in fault on the subject of ordination. Some of our congregations have suffered from unsound men in doctrine as well as in morals, who were received into the fold and commissioned before they were proved on doctrine, morals or motives. The gospel is plain enough but some preachers and congregations lack the moral courage to execute it. Hence we have had to contend with a lot of tramps fleeing from justice, camping with us to gain a standing, then off for a richer field financially.

At our Virginia and Maryland Conference a motion was offered which had for its object to check this wild and unscriptural method of importing and ordaining preachers. It proposed to examine the candidates on morals, motives, soundness in doctrine, as well as intellectual qualifications, etc. The report of committee was favorable, but it came

before the convention in the last hour of its setting, passed by a majority vote, lacking one vote necessary for two-thirds under the rule, which was called for the first time during the meeting. Many of the delegates who returned to their homes or were absent for other reasons, now regret their hasty departure. Delegates are the representatives of the various congregations and should feel the responsibility resting upon them and be present at all business sessions.

Before closing this article, I want to serve notice that the Virginia delegation will not remain quiet on the ordination question until something tangible and practical is adopted. We as a state have resolved to use all vigilance and perseverance on this line.

E. B. SHAVER.

Maurertown, Va.

Notes from Zed H. Copp

DAYTON

The revival closed Wednesday night, 1st, with three confessions, all of whom will unite with the church by baptism Saturday. We believe they will prove valuable additions.

We confess a disappointment at the result of the meeting, for we were *expecting* great things, having been informed by many that the work was ripe and only needed a good spiritual shake to bring down the fruit in plenty. We *find* however that here, as elsewhere, grit, grace, energy and patience alone will prove the secret of success, humanly speaking. Tho somewhat disappointed we *are not* discouraged, for the work is the Lord's and his word *shall accomplish* that whereunto it is sent.

Brother Hall did yeoman-like service in song. Some day the Brethren church will wake up to realize the value of sacred song in revival and the soul-winning power of Brother Hall's songs. Special thanks are due Brother Hall who *gave* his time to Christ and the church during this meeting when he was so very much needed at home; to sister Norma Hill for the use of her organ; to sister Leona Mottice for faithfulness at the organ and to brother John Ebersole for promptness in janitoring. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen both young and old in the Lord's service.

BEAR CREEK

Children's Day will be duly celebrated Sunday evening, 12th, and, if preparations and indications count for any thing, it will prove of excellent merit. Brother Reynolds, the superintendent, is a good organizer and a tireless worker; a large and enthusiastic school is the result.

The neighborhood was made sorrowful by the news of little Bessie Marie Wallace's death. She was the infant daughter of brother John and Emma Wallace and dwelt with them but twenty-seven days. She is now with Him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me." The Lord of Martha and Mary will comfort the bereaved.

Dayton, Ohio.